Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 /096 W

-----120871 151633Z /40

P 151611Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9049
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI AMEMBASSY TOKYO

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CH, UR, PEPR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MESSAGE TO NPC

REF: PEKING 656

1. CHINESE DIPLOMATS HERE ARE TELLING THEIR DIPLOMATIC
COLLEAGUES THAT SUPREME SOVIET-NPC CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE
CONTAINS NOTHING NEW AND WAS FILLED WITH PROPAGANDA. THEY
HOLD SOVIETS PROBABLY FORMULATED AND DISPATCHED MESSAGE
WITH THE INTENTION TO PUBLISH IT LATER AS A PROPAGANDA
PLAY TO ILLUSTRATE ALLEGED CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE IN
RESOLVING SINO-SOVIET DIFFERENCES. CHINESE FURTHER CONFIRMED THAT MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO CHINESE CHARGE HERE
AFTER DEPARTURE OF CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND NPC AND
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TO PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER IN PEKING.

2. SOVIET PRESS HAS NOT YET PUBLISHED SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE. MARCH 11 IZVESTIYA PUBLISHED ONE LINE MESSAGES FROM BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN TO YEH CHIEN-YING AND HUA KUOFENG CONGRATULATING THEM FOR THEIR ELECTION TO POSTS OF CHAIRMAN OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE AND PREMIER.

3. COMMENT: A CHECK OF EMBASSY FILES AND THE SOVIET PRESS INDICATES THAT NO SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE WAS SENT TO THE LAST NPC MEETING IN JANUARY, 1975. DESPITE THIS, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN TEXT OF THE RECENT SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE, WE WOULD TEND TO DISCOUNT MESSAGE'S IMPORTANCE. WE WOULD GUESS THAT ITS ALLEGED "CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS," LIKE THE SOVIET DRAFT OF SOVIET-JAPANESE GOOD NEIGHBOR AND COOPERATION TREATY, ARE REHASES OF OLD SOVIET "PROPOSALS" WHICH THE CHINESE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BUY. TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PROPAGANDA, FOREIGN RELATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 15 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW04699
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780115-0549

Format: TEL

From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780366/aaaacdsq.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c50cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 PEKING 656

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 09 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3325286 Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE Subject: SOVIET MESSAGE TO NPC

TAGS: PEPR, PROP, CH, UR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c50cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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